



**Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee on H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor**

February 23, 2023

Co-chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Bishop John Diamond, I'm the Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Faith Church of God in Bridgeport and a co-founder of FaithActs for Education. I am here to oppose H.B. 6659 because I support Fair Education Funding.

We began this work at FaithActs nearly eight years ago, with the dream of making sure every child receives a world-class education. Every child should grow up with the tools they need to be gainfully employed, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential. And so we fight; we fight for equitable opportunities. We fight against systems not built to help us and we fight for our children and for necessary change. That fight has been going on across years and decades.

This year, change can come. It must.

FaithActs for Education is part of the largest and most diverse coalition ever in support of an education issue. On February 3, I traveled to the Capitol and hundreds of my friends and colleagues submitted written and verbal testimony, all in pursuit of the same thing – fair education funding in Connecticut. **The current budget does not reflect fair funding.**

We need to change that budget. We have the resources, the support, and the plan to make that a reality.

I see education as imperative for the people I serve. I'm committed to seeing every child in the community I serve fulfill their God-given right to take the best care of their families and reach the pinnacle of success that only education can provide.

I pray that you choose to fully fund that education for our children. Please oppose H.B. 6659.



Bishop John Diamond  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Cathedral of Faith Church of God  
2319 Fairfield Ave  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

FaithActs for Education  
857 Post Road, Suite 310  
Fairfield, CT 06824